

the sum of the moles percent of a), b), and c) being 100, said terpolymer having a branching index of less than or equal to 0.5 and a molecular weight distribution index M_w/M_n of greater than or equal to 6.

23. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the terpolymer has a Mooney viscosity [ML (1+4 at 125°C)] of 10-80.

24. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the terpolymer has a branching index of less than or equal to 0.4.

25. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the polymer composition has a zinc oxide content of less than 10 phr.

26. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 25, wherein the zinc oxide content varies between 3 and 8 phr.

27. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the polymer composition comprises an elastomer mixture comprising the elastomer terpolymer mixed with at least one other polymer in a quantity of less than or equal to 30 phr of the mixture and selected from polyolefins, thermoplastic propylene/ethylene polymers, ethylene/propylene elastomer copolymers, ethylene/propylene/diene elastomer copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

28. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 27, wherein the one other polymer is selected from low-density polyethylene, low-density linear polyethylene, and very low density polyethylene.

29. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, wherein the α -olefin is $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-R}$, where R is a linear or branched alkyl containing 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

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30. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 29, wherein the α -olefin is selected from propylene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1,4-methyl-1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene and combinations thereof.

31. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 29, wherein the α -olefin is propylene.

32. (New) An electric cable as claimed in claim 22, further comprising at least one layer with semiconductive properties comprising the polymer composition as claimed in claim 22 having a conductive filler dispersed therein.

33. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition comprising as base polymer material an elastomer terpolymer having the following composition:

- a) 50-90 moles percent of ethylene;
- b) 10-50 moles percent of an α -olefin; and
- c) 0.16-5 moles percent of 5-vinyl-2-norbornene;

the sum of the moles percent of a), b), and c) being 100, said terpolymer having a branching index of less than or equal to 0.5 and a molecular weight distribution index M_w/M_n of greater than or equal to 6.

34. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the terpolymer has a Mooney viscosity [ML (1+4 at 125°C)] of 10-80.

35. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the terpolymer has a branching index of less than or equal to 0.4.

36. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, comprising zinc oxide in a quantity of less than 10 phr.

37. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the zinc oxide content varies between 3 and 8 phr.

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38. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, comprising an elastomer mixture comprising the elastomer terpolymer mixed with at least one other polymer in a quantity of less than or equal to 30 phr of the mixture and selected from polyolefins, thermoplastic propylene/ethylene copolymers, ethylene/propylene elastomer copolymers, ethylene/propylene/diene elastomer copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

39. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 38, wherein the one other polymer is selected from low-density polyethylene, low-density linear polyethylene, and very low density polyethylene.

40. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the α -olefin is $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-R}$, where R is a linear or branched alkyl containing 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

41. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 40, wherein the α -olefin is selected from propylene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1,4-methyl-1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene and combinations thereof.

42. (New) A substantially lead-free polymer composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the α -olefin is propylene.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple claim dependency and to conform them to U.S. practice. Claims 22-42 are pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

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